

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1 – 8 (cancelled)

9. (new) A method for verifying an availability of a server, comprising:
transmitting an availability request by a client to the server;
transmitting a response to the availability request by the server to the client by
confirmation message if the server is available; and
transmitting a message regarding an availability of the server by the client to a plurality
of predefinable other clients to prevent a transmission of the availability request to the server for
a predefinable period of time.

10. (new) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the method is used for verifying
the availability of the server in a packet-oriented communication network.

11. (new) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein data is transmitted between the
server and clients by a connectionless switching control.

12. (new) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the message regarding the
availability of the server is transmitted to the plurality of predefinable other clients using a
multicast message.

13. (new) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the client informs only the
plurality of predefinable other clients within a same subnetwork about the availability of the
server.

14. (new) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the client executes the
availability request at a time which is predefined by a timer.

15. (new) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the timer is reset to a predefinable value when the message regarding the availability of the server is received.

16. (new) A control program loaded into a random access memory of a client and having a code section, comprising:

a code that transmits an availability request by the client to a server;

a code that monitors a receipt of a confirmation message responding to the availability request if the server is available;

a code that transmits a message regarding an availability of the server to a plurality of predefinable other clients; and

a code that monitors a receipt of a message of the plurality of predefinable other clients regarding the availability of the server,

wherein a transmission of the availability request to the server is prevented for a predefinable period of time when the message is received.

17. (new) The control program as claimed in claim 16, wherein the control program is a computer control program and is loaded into the random access memory of the client computer.

18. (new) A client for a communication network providing a connectionless service, comprising:

a device for transmitting an availability request to a server;

a device for monitoring a receipt of a confirmation message responding to the availability request if the server is available;

a device for transmitting a message regarding an availability of the server to a plurality of predefinable other clients; and

a device for monitoring a receipt of a message of the plurality of predefinable other clients regarding the availability of the server and for preventing a transmission of the availability request to the server for a predefinable period of time when the message is received.